
7. HOME HEALTH SERVICESLimitations

- a. Services are provided by Medicare certified home health agencies which have met all conditions of participation.
- b. Nursing visits (as defined in the State Nurse Practice Act), home health aide, physical, occupational and speech therapies are provided up to 50 visits per recipient per calendar year. Visits in excess of 50 may be provided for eligible recipients if medically necessary and prior approval is obtained. Certain skilled nursing services may be provided by an LPN, under the direction and supervision of the registered nurse. An LPN, when appropriately trained, may participate in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of the delivery of health care services. Home Health Aides must also be closely supervised by a registered nurse. Written instructions for patient care shall be prepared by a registered nurse or therapist as appropriate. The duties of the aide shall be limited to the performance of simple procedures such as an extension of therapy services, personal care, ambulation and exercise, household services essential to health care at home, assistance with medications that are ordinarily self-administered, reporting changes in the patient's condition and needs, and completing appropriate records. A registered nurse shall make a supervisory visit to the patient's residence at least every two weeks, to observe, assist and assess the relationships and determine whether goals are being met. Aides shall be closely supervised to assure their competence in providing care. (Rules and Regulations for Home Health Agencies; Rule 290-5-38-.07(6)(a) – (g). Authority Ga. L. 1980, pp. 1790 - 1793.

Home health provides the medical supplies and equipment for use in the home referred to under the Scope of Services in Part II Policies and Procedures for Home Health Services.

(<https://www.ghp.georgia.gov/wps/portal/cmd/ActionDispatcher/pagr/104/pa.104/112/st/X.pnd/927.crid.1134/regid/-1/PC.927.WPSLINKTYPE/internal#1134>) Select Home Health Manual

- c. Any appliance needs are provided by the Durable Medical Equipment Program (DME) or through the Pharmacy program. Examples of supplies and equipment are provided below:
 - Syringes, enemas, dressings, rubbing alcohol, tape, gloves,
 - Catheters, catheter sets, drainage apparatus, saline solutions, venipuncture supplies
 - Laboratory procedures not requiring laboratory personnel,
 - Phototherapy service (bilirubin level), lancets and strips for glucose monitoring
- d. All therapy services provided by a home health agency shall be provided by a qualified therapist in accordance with the plan of treatment. Examples of physical, speech, and occupational therapy are provided below:

Physical Therapy Services include: Therapeutic exercise programs including muscle strengthening, neuromuscular facilitation, sitting and standing balance and endurance and range of motion, gait evaluation and training and transfer training and instructions in care and use of wheelchair, braces, prostheses, etc.

Speech Therapy Services include: Evaluating and recommending appropriate Speech and hearing services, providing necessary rehabilitative services for patients with speech, hearing or language disabilities; and providing instructions for the patient and family to develop and follow a speech pathology program

7. HOME HEALTH SERVICES

Limitations (continued)

Occupational Therapy Services include: Teaching skills that will assist the patient in the management of personal care, including bathing, dressing and cooking/meal preparation, assisting in improving the individual's functional abilities, teaching adaptive techniques for activities of daily living and working with upper extremity exercises.

- e. Patient admission to the Home Health Program shall be based on the Department's expectation that the care and services are medically reasonable and necessary for the treatment of an illness or injury as indicated by the physician's orders.

Non-Covered Services

Social Services (medical social consultation).

Chore services (Homemakers).

Meals on Wheels.

Audiology Services.

Visits in excess of 50 per recipient per calendar year.